(XLth YEAR.) THE (No. 1984.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1785.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, JANUARY 8, 1785.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is the opinion of this house, that the happiness of the people, and the good order and preservation of civil government, depend upon morality, religion, and piety; and that these cannot be generally diffused through a community, but by the *public* worship of Almighty God.

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that it is highly necessary, and the indispensable duty of the legislature of this state, to discourage vice and immorality, to enact a law for the support and encouragement of the christian religion, as the best means of manifesting our gratitude to God for his past mercies and deliverances, and procuring his blessing and favour upon all our future endeavours, for the honour, prosperity, and happiness of this country.

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that agreeably to the constitution and form of government, it is proper for the general assembly to lay a general and equal tax on all the citizens of this state, of all denominations of christians (as far as their present circumstances will permit), for the support of the ministers of the gospel of all societies of christians within this state, without any preference or discrimination.

By order,
W. HARWOOD, Clk.

An ADDRESS of the HOUSE of DELEGATES of MARYLAND to their CONSTITUENTS.

THE Resolves hereunto prefixed are the foundation of a *bill* highly interesting both to your temporal and everlasting concerns, which we have ordered to be published, for your consideration; and we wish to draw your most serious attention, not only to its *form* and *substance*, but to its *principles* and probable operation.

The house of delegates, your immediate representatives in general assembly, have not entered hastily upon this great business. They have long beheld a growing indifference to religion and things sacred, very alarming to the interests of morality, peace and good order in society. They found themselves called upon, in their legislative capacity, not only by the mournful voice of *Religion* herself, but by the voice of the constitution, and numerous petitions from our constituents; all which was still further enforced, in the most powerful manner, by an *address* of the governor and council (in the month of May seventeen hundred and eighty-three) in the following pathetic words: "It is far from our intentions to embarrass your deliberations with a variety of objects; but we cannot pass over matters of so high concernment as *religion* and *learning*. The sufferings of the *ministers* of the gospel of *all denominations* during the war, have been very considerable; and the perseverance and firmness of those who discharged their sacred functions, under many discouraging circumstances, claim our acknowledgments and thanks. The Bill of Rights and Form of Government recognise the principle of *public support for the ministers* of the gospel, and ascertain the mode. Anxiously solicitous for the blessings of government, and the welfare and happiness of our citizens, and thoroughly convinced of the powerful influence of religion, when diffused by its respectable teachers, we beg leave most seriously and warmly to recommend, among the first objects of your attention, *on the return of peace*, the making such provision, as the constitution, in this case, authorises and approves."

Being called upon, in this solemn manner, to consider the high concernments of *religion* and *learning*, as one of the first objects of legislative attention, upon the happy *return of peace*; some suitable provision hath been accordingly made for the latter of these (namely *learning*) by the foundation of two *colleges* (viz. one upon each shore) connected together, as one *university*, upon such liberal principles as (it is hoped) will merit a continuance of the public approbation, and be productive of the most lasting advantages to our posterity.

The bill (herewith published) is intended to make the best provision in the power of the legislature, for the former of these great concernments, namely the support and advancement of *religion* among all denominations of *christians*, without preference or distinction, as is set forth in the *resolutions* prefixed, which contain principles so universally received, that it cannot be supposed they will meet with a dissenting voice among mankind, if considered by themselves, without any other view, than as conducive to the general happiness of society.

That *religion* hath the most powerful influence upon *manners*, and hath been more or less interwoven with the very frame and texture of every *civil* government upon earth, needs but little proof.

The *savages* of the wilderness around us can bear testimony to this truth; and the ancient *Romans*, the wisest and the greatest of the nations, unenlightened by immediate *revelation*, owed more of their grandeur to their *religious institutions*, than either to their strength or stratagem. *Religion* pervaded their whole system of laws; its precepts regulated their conduct in *peace* and *war*; and if at any time, in the dire extremity of affairs, the *safety of the commonwealth*, their *supreme law*, required the least deviation from the *laws* of religion, yet still they paid a strict regard to its external sanctions and appearances, and threw a veil over the *statues* of their gods, to persuade the people, that the gods did either not see, or (for that time) would connive or dispense with the great and necessary, although (otherwise) sacrilegious, action!

If we come to *revelation*, the government of the *Jews* under the Old Testament was wholly a *theocracy*, or *government of religion*, instituted by God himself as their *supreme lawgiver*; and their empire was great and flourishing, or miserable and depressed, as they obeyed or forsook his holy laws. And as to the *New Testament*, where shall we find a system of religion which conduces so effectually to the good order, peace and happiness of society, as the *religion of Christ?* Whatsoever things are honest, pure, lovely, and of *good report*, are enforced by it, under the sacred sanction of everlasting rewards and punishments.

If we come to our own situation in America, and recal to memory the many arduous contests of the late war, while we were laying the foundations of our present liberty and happiness; religion, both in belief and practice, was considered as our principal support and stay. How frequent were our appeals to Heaven for the justice of our cause? How many our days of fasting and prayer, to implore the Divine protection on the success of our arms? And how many our days of thanksgiving for mercies received? By all which, religion was, at least, acknowledged in our *national* councils, as having the most powerful influence on the minds of men, in order to lead them to a sense of duty, and the faithful discharge of it as good citizens.

The right and duty of the legislative or supreme power to interpose in matters of religion, so far as concerns the general peace and welfare of the community, and "to make suitable provision, at the public expence, for the institution of the public worship of God," are fully acknowledged and recognised under the American revolution.

By the constitution of this state, no man can hold any office of profit or trust, without professing and declaring "his belief in the christian religion." Government can have no confidence in that man who is under no religious tie, and who believes neither Heaven nor hell, or, in other words, a future state of rewards and punishments. What the celebrated commentator on the law of England delivers on this subject, deserves the most serious attention.

"The preservation of *christianity*, as a *national religion*, is (abstracted from its own intrinsic truth) of the utmost consequence to the civil state, which a single instance will sufficiently demonstrate. The belief of a future state of rewards and punishments, the entertaining just ideas of the moral attributes of the supreme Being, and a firm persuasion that he superintends, and will finally compensate, every action of human life, (all which are clearly revealed in the doctrines, and forcibly inculcated by the precepts, of our Saviour Christ), are the grand foundation of all *judicial oaths*, which call God to witness the truth of those facts, which perhaps may be only known to him and the party attesting; all moral evidence, therefore, all confidence in human veracity, must be weakened by irreligion, and overthrown by infidelity."

Upon the whole, since *religion* has such an intimate connexion with *government*, and is so conducive to the happiness of mankind in this world, as well as their best preparation for the happiness of the world to come, we cannot but consider it as the indispensable duty of every wise and virtuous legislature, to make the most early and permanent provision for the administration and support of both.

We have now stated the *principles* of the bill, and our motives for bringing it before you at this time. The subject is of the utmost magnitude, and it is your duty to weigh it with the greatest deliberation and temper. It requires no depth of learning, nor any other exertion than that of a common understanding, love to your country, and christian forbearance, one with another.

In considering it therefore you will remember, that in *religion*, as well as *government*, the *labourer* is *worthy of his hire*; that the ministers of the gospel among us, for the future, must chiefly be our own natives; that their profession will deprive them, for the most part, of any other means of getting a livelihood, or providing for their families; that they ought to be endued with considerable learning and knowledge to be respectable and useful in their sacred calling; and that without a competent support in prospect, few men will put themselves to the expence of a liberal education for the ministry; and the discharge of its sacred functions will be left chiefly to those, whose ignorance would render them improper even to be entrusted with any of our worldly affairs.

Objections will probably be made to the proposed mode of supporting the ministry. It may be called a "*poll tax*, and yielding *partial* favours, to raise one denomination of christians above others, contrary to the Declaration of Rights." But let such objections be well weighed before they lead you to any injurious suspicions of the integrity of your representatives. Let it be considered, whether they come from the friends or enemies to the general principles of the bill—those who wish for any legal support to the ministers of religion, or those who profess themselves opposed to it.

Consider the whole frame and spirit of the bill. It declares the most perfect *equality*; and if your representatives were so weak or wicked as to design any thing contrary to the constitution, they are at least wise enough to know that the act would be *null* and *void* in itself.

A *poll tax*, such as was levied under the old constitution (where the expence of *government* was *not* supported in proportion to property and the benefits to be derived, but by the head) is justly declared *grievous* and *oppressive* by the Bill of Rights.

The instruction to be given to all men, from the Word of God, is equally important, to the *rich* and *poor*; and the souls of both are alike precious in their *Maker's* sight. Yet still, the *rich* man will pay in proportion to the number of his family and the taxables dependent upon him, which is just and reasonable. Nevertheless the sum to be paid by every individual, when thus borne equally by *all*, will be small indeed compared to the burden which now falls upon a *few*; while many of the *rich* and *fordid*, as well as many of lower degree, whose profligate lives are a reproach to society, escape wholly *free*.

Whether the tax ſhall be raiſed upon property in general, or in any other mode, will be maturely conſidered by your repreſentatives, when they ſhall have further opportunity of conſulting you thereon. Let what is beſt upon the whole be done. Your repreſentatives *will* not, they *cannot*, do any thing injurious to your intereſt, which is inſeparable from their own.

The great and almoſt only point is—"Whether or not it be neceſſary, and the deſire of a majority of the good people of this ſtate, that ſome ſuitable proviſion ſhould be made by *law*, for the ſupport of the chriſtian religion according to the Bill of Rights, and the *reſolutions* of your repreſentatives hereunto prefixed?

Upon this great queſtion, your INSTRUCTIONS are deſired; and while you give them, we beſeech you to exerciſe all poſſible temper and diſcretion; conſidering yourſelves as in the preſence of your *Almighty Creator*; and that the judgment which you are to pronounce may be finally deciſive upon the future *religion*, *glory*, *honour* and *happineſs* of your country and poſterity, to the lateſt generations!

THO. COCKEY DEYE,
Speaker of the Houſe of Delegates.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES,
January 12, 1785.

RESOLVED, *That the Bill to lay a general tax for the ſupport of the miniſters of the goſpel of all ſocieties of chriſtians within this ſtate, be referred and taken into conſideration on the fifth day of the next ſeſſion of aſſembly; and that the ſaid bill be publiſhed in the Maryland Gazette, and Baltimore news-papers, and one thouſand copies thereof in hand-bills, and ſent to the ſeveral counties for the information of our conſtituents.*

By order, W. HARWOOD, clk.

An ACT to lay a general tax for the ſupport of the miniſters of the goſpel of all ſocieties of chriſtians within this ſtate.

WHEREAS the happineſs of a people, and the good order and preſervation of civil government, eſſentially depend upon morality, religion, and piety, and theſe cannot be generally diffuſed through a community but by the public worſhip of Almighty God; and whereas our anceſtors, the early ſettlers and reſpectable founders of this ſtate, declaring "that matters concerning religion ought in the firſt place to be taken into conſideration, countenanced, and encouraged, as being acceptable to God, and the beſt way and means of obtaining his mercy and bleſſing upon a people and country," did frame and eſtabliſh ſundry laws for the ſupport of religion, ſome of which, at the great æra of our independence, were, by the Bill of Rights, declared inconſiſtent with that religious liberty which was intended as the baſis of our future government, but, at the ſame time, with an expreſs proviſion, that future legiſlators ſhould pay a due regard to the eſſential concerns of religion and piety, and, "at their diſcretion, lay a general and equal tax for the ſupport of the chriſtian religion,"

Be it enacted, by the General Aſſembly of Maryland, That every taxable inhabitant within this ſtate ſhall annually, on or before the firſt day of Auguſt, pay unto the ſheriff of his county the ſum of —— ſhillings current money; and if any taxable ſhall neglect or refuſe to pay the ſame on or before the time aforeſaid, it ſhall be lawful for the ſheriffs of the ſeveral counties, and they are hereby authoriſed and required, at any time after the firſt day of Auguſt annually, and within three months thereafter, to collect from every ſuch taxable inhabitant the ſaid ſum of —— ſhillings current money, by execution of the perſon, or by diſtreſs and ſale (at auction after five days notice) of the goods or chattels of the perſon chargeable by this law with payment thereof; and the ſaid ſheriffs are hereby required, before the firſt day of November annually, to pay the money by them received or collected, or which by law they ought to have received and collected, to the perſon or perſons entitled by this law to receive the ſame (after retaining five per cent. on ſuch money for the receipt or collection thereof); and if any ſheriff ſhall not make payment according to the directions of this act, he ſhall forfeit, if ſuit be brought againſt him only, double the money which ſuch ſheriff ought to have received and collected, to be recovered by thoſe who are entitled by this act to receive the ſame, with coſts, by action on the caſe founded on this act, in which it ſhall be ſufficient for the plaintiff to allege, that the defendant has received to the plaintiff's uſe the ſum of money claimed by him, whereby the plaintiff's action accrued according to the form of this act, without ſetting forth the ſpecial matter; or the perſon entitled to receive from ſuch ſheriff may ſue and recover on the ſheriff's bond againſt him and his ſecurities the money which ſuch ſheriff ought to have received and collected, with intereſt thereon from the time the money became payable; and every ſheriff, on information that any inhabitant of his county is about to abſcond or remove his effects from the place of his reſidence, may and ſhall, at any time between the firſt day of March and the twentieth day of October yearly, apply himſelf to ſome juſtice of his county, and, on oath or affirmation thereof made by the ſheriff, or ſome other credible perſon (which oath or affirmation the ſaid juſtice ſhall adminiſter, and return to the next county court) ſuch juſtice ſhall iſſue his warrant, and thereby authoriſe and direct ſuch ſheriff to execute ſuch inhabitant or his goods or effects, and ſuch ſheriff ſhall make execution therefor without any fee; and if ſuch inhabitant will give the ſheriff ſufficient ſecurity for payment, he ſhall take the ſame, and not proceed to execute the ſaid perſon or his effects.

And, to aſcertain what inhabitants of this ſtate ſhall be deemed taxables within this act, *Be it enacted*, That all male perſons of the age of ſixteen years, and all female ſlaves of the ſame age (except only the poor of the county, and paupers, that is, perſons not having property rated to the public charge above ten pounds current money, and ſuch ſlaves as have been or ſhall hereafter be adjudged by any county court to be paſt labour) ſhall be accounted and taken to be taxables within the meaning of this act.

And be it enacted, That every conſtable ſhall (under the penalty of twenty pounds current money) between the firſt day of April and the firſt day of June in every year, repair in perſon to every houſe or habitation within his hundred, and there require of the maſter, miſtreſs, or chief perſon or head of the family, a true liſt of the names and ſex of all the taxable perſons in his or her family; and the conſtable ſhall (under the penalty of twenty pounds current money) deliver to the ſheriff of his county, on or before the tenth day of July annually, a fair copy of ſuch liſt, under his hand, and ſhall, under the like penalty, ſet up another fair copy of ſuch liſt in the court-houſe of his county, on the ſecond day of the ſitting of the Auguſt court next thereafter; and if any maſter, miſtreſs, or chief perſon or head of a family, ſhall refuſe, neglect, or delay, to give ſuch liſt or account of the taxable perſons of his or her family, or ſhall conceal any taxable, or not give a true liſt or account as required by this act, ſuch perſon ſhall forfeit and pay five pounds current money for every taxable not given in or concealed; and the ſheriffs of the reſpective counties are hereby required, under the penalty of fifty pounds current money, to return under their hands annually before the firſt day of November a fair abſtract from the liſts of taxables in his county, to the clerk of the houſe of delegates, diſtinguiſhing in columns the number of taxables of each deſcription, to wit, white and black males, and female ſlaves.

And, That ſingle free perſons, having no fixed place of reſidence, may not eſcape the payment of their tax, *Be it enacted*, That any conſtable, upon information, or his own knowledge of ſuch perſon, may call on him to give ſecurity for payment, and on refuſal or neglect to find ſecurity, may carry ſuch perſon before any juſtice of the peace, who is hereby authoriſed and required to commit ſuch perſon to the gaol of the county, there to remain until payment or ſecurity therefor; and if any ſuch perſon ſhall remove out of the county, it is hereby declared to be the duty of the conſtable acquainted therewith, to give information thereof to the ſheriff of the county where ſuch perſon ſhall be, and ſuch ſheriff, on ſuch notice, ſhall enquire after and may arreſt ſuch perſon, and carry him before ſome juſtice, who ſhall commit him to the gaol of his county, there to remain until payment of —— ſhillings current money, and the coſts of impriſonment; and if ſuch perſon ſhall have removed to avoid payment of his tax, he ſhall be commited until he ſhall pay —— ſhillings current money, and coſts of impriſonment.

And be it enacted, That every ſociety of chriſtians, conſiſting of thirty or more male perſons not under twenty-one years of age, deſirous to receive the benefit of this act, as a ſociety for the purpoſe of religious worſhip, ſhall give themſelves a name or denomination, by which they ſhall be known in law; and every free taxable inhabitant within this ſtate, chargeable by this act as aforeſaid, may, at any time between the firſt day of April and the firſt day of October in every year, declare the name or denomination of the religious ſocity, and the place of worſhip, to which he belongs, and ſhall elect and appoint to what miniſter of the goſpel, officiating in ſuch place of worſhip, and reſiding within a reaſonable diſtance of the ſame, or to what poor of his own denomination, or of any county in general, the money to be collected from him in virtue of this act ſhall be paid; and the ſheriff, or his deputy, ſhall take notice of, and make an entry oppoſite the account of ſuch perſon, of ſuch his deſire, and thereupon the miniſter of the goſpel, or the poor, as the caſe may be, ſhall be entitled to receive the ſame, and the ſheriff ſhall be accordingly chargeable therewith; and the ſeveral ſheriffs, under the penalty of fifty pounds current money, ſhall, between the firſt day of June and the twentieth day of October annually, make out and deliver to the miniſter of the goſpel, or to the truſtees, managers, or overſeers of the poor, appointed to receive the money, an alphabetical liſt of the taxables from whom the ſheriff is to receive for their uſe; and if there ſhall be no appointment to what miniſter of the goſpel, or to what poor, the ſaid ſum to be collected in virtue of this act ſhall be paid as aforeſaid, the ſame ſhall be paid to the miniſter of the pariſh in which the perſon chargeable with the ſame ſhall reſide, or in which he ſhall be taken as a taxable, unleſs there be any miniſter of any other denomination, having a church or place of worſhip in which he officiates within ſuch pariſh, who may require and be entitled to a proportion of any ſum collected as aforeſaid, for the payment of which no appointment ſhall be made; in which caſe, the money ſo collected ſhall be accounted for by the ſheriff to the juſtices of the county court, at their firſt ſeſſion after the twentieth day of October in every year, and ſhall be paid by their order to the miniſter of the pariſh, and ſuch other miniſters aforeſaid, as nearly as can be eſtimated, in proportion to the duty ſeverally done by them, and the number of taxables to whom they are engaged to officiate: Provided, that no miniſter of the goſpel ſhall receive any payment or benefit in virtue of this act, without firſt taking the oaths, or affirmation, of fidelity to this ſtate, and unleſs he is engaged for ſome reaſonable term, not leſs than a year, to officiate in ſome certain place or places of worſhip, to ſome ſociety of chriſtians, who have given themſelves a name or denomination as aforeſaid, and, being not leſs than thirty or more male perſons, have cauſed their ſaid name and place or places of worſhip, to be entered or regiſtered by the ſheriff or ſheriffs, in the records of their county.

And be it enacted, That, for keeping the churches, chapels, and houſes of religious worſhip, in decent and orderly repair, and for aſſiſting in the ſupport of the miniſters, where it may be neceſſary, as well as for other public purpoſes reſpecting the due adminiſtration of the ordinances of religion, it ſhall and may be lawful for the different congregations or religious ſocieties in this ſtate, by their veſtries, or other church officers or repreſentatives, in their diſcretion, to lay and levy a reaſonable rent, rate, or annual payment, on the pews or ſeats in their ſeveral churches, chapels, and places of worſhip, and for neglect or refuſal of payment, to diſpoſe of, ſell, and give poſſeſſion of ſuch pews and ſeats, to ſuch perſons as ſhall be willing to purchaſe the ſame, ſubject to ſuch rents, rates, or yearly payments, as may from time to time be reaſonbly aſſeſſed upon them, with the conſent of the majority of the congregation by their repreſentatives aforeſaid.

And be it enacted, That in caſe of the death of any miniſter of the goſpel, or his removal from the charge of any pariſh, church, or place of worſhip to which he may have been appointed, the money which ſhould be paid to ſuch miniſter of the goſpel in virtue of this act, ſhall be paid to the veſtries or other repreſentatives of the reſpective pariſhes or churches and places of worſhip, to be applied by them during the vacancy or want of a miniſter, to ſuch purpoſes, within their reſpective religious ſocieties, communities, and congregations, as they may think moſt conducive to the intereſt of religon and piety; provided ſuch vacancy be not continued longer than one year together; but if continued longer, then the money which by this act ſhould be paid to ſuch miniſter, ſhall be applied by the juſtices of the county court for the general purpoſes of religion, learning, and morality, within the pariſh in which the money may be collected, until ſuch vacant church or place of worſhip ſhall be duly ſupplied according to the tenor of this act.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That if any free taxable inhabitant of this ſtate, chargeable and required in virtue of this act to contribute to the ſupport of the miniſters of the goſpel of Chriſt, will make and ſubſcribe a declaration before any one of the judges of the general court, or any two juſtices of any county court (which declaration ſhall on requeſt be taken by the judge or juſtices), that he is a Jew or Mahometan, or that he does not believe in the chriſtian religion, ſuch perſon, thereupon and thereafter, ſhall not be liable to pay any tax for himſelf in virtue of this act, and the judge or juſtices before whom ſuch declaration ſhall be made, ſhall certify and return the ſame to the clerk of the general or county court, there to be recorded at the expence of the perſon making ſuch declaration.

To the PRINTERS of the MARYLAND GAZETTE and BALTIMORE NEWS-PAPERS.

GENTLEMEN,

AS the *houſe of delegates* of this ſtate have directed their ADDRESS to their *conſtituents*, on the ſubject of the *religious bill*, to be publiſhed in your papers, you are requeſted to add (in the ſame papers, if you can), the following remarks on the addreſs.

A BYE-STANDER.

IN the *addreſs* it is mentioned that the houſe of delegates "found themſelves called upon, not only by the mournful voice of *religion* herſelf, but by the voice of the conſtitution, and numerous *petitions* from their conſtituents," &c.

The *petitions* above referred to, were not ſent, from two or three counties, as was aſſerted by ſome on the debate, but by a great number of the counties; and they ſet forth in general "That the worſhip of the Almighty Creator of the Univerſe was the indiſpenſable duty of his dependent creatures; that without *religion*, *government* could not be duly adminiſtered; that a legal ſupport was neceſſary for both; and that by a neglect of the ordinances of religion, vice and immorality would gain ground, corruption would win its way from the loweſt to the higheſt places, diſtreſs would pervade our public meaſures; our churches, grave-yards, and public inſtitutions, the monuments of the piety of our anceſtors, falling into ruin, would become the reproach of our poſterity; and even the great and glorious fabric of *public liberty and happineſs*, built up by the late REVOLUTION, and cemented with ſo much blood and treaſure, might be in danger of tumbling into the duſt, as wanting the ſtronger cement of *virtue* and *religion*."

It needs ſcarcely be mentioned that the part of the conſtitution, by which the delegates conſider themſelves as called upon, is the 33d ſection of the bill of rights, which hath been ſo often publiſhed, "and which recognizes the principle of public ſupport for the miniſters of the Goſpel, and aſcertains the mode." It appears from the proceedings of the *convention* that this ſection was inſerted in the bill of rights, by a great majority

of those worthy patriots who framed our constitution, there being *forty-one* members for the clause, and only *eighteen* against it, and these chiefly the same men, who oppose the present *bill*, upon the principle "that *legislative* aid is not necessary to promote *religious* observances."—

When it is considered who are the persons who contend for this principle, at present, it seems extremely difficult to reconcile them to themselves, or to account for their motives, upon any principles which charity can believe to be of a *religious* kind; because the very same denominations of persons, wherever they are the majority, and can obtain any "legislative aid to promote their own religious observances," are not slack to make it one of the first concerns of civil government, and to enforce it with a strict hand.

In the four New-England states, the prevailing denominations are, the *presbyterian, congregational*, or *consociated* churches, and the *anabaptists* (chiefly in Rhode-Island).

In the Massachusetts, the necessity of "legislative aid to *religion*," is laid down as the basis of their government, and the legislature have not even a choice left them, but it is commanded them, in the third section of the declaration of rights—that they "SHALL, from time to time, authorise and require, the several towns, * parishes, precincts, and other bodies politic, or religious societies, to make suitable provision, at their own expence, for the institution of the public worship of God, and for the support and maintenance of public *protestant* † teachers of piety, religion and morality, in all cases where such provision shall not be made voluntarily."

Laws have been made accordingly in the *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut*; and "if any minister finds himself aggrieved by too *scanty* an allowance (whether the provision be voluntarily or by law) he may apply to the general assembly, and have a sufficient maintenance ordered to be given him by the inhabitants of the town or society; and if any town or society be any *year* or *years*, without a minister preaching the Gospel to them, such town or society shall in the said year or years, pay such sum as the *general court* shall appoint, which sum is to be disposed of and improved by the *county court* of that county, for the ministry in such town or society where it is collected, as soon as an opportunity may be had for it, according to the discretion of the court."

The whole of the *Connecticut* laws from which the above extract is taken, is enforced under the strongest penalties upon every person whatsoever. "Each town or society, by their proper votes or acts, SHALL *annually* grant a TAX for *the support of the ministry*—some assistant or justice of the peace shall give his *writ* or *warrant* for levying or collecting the same—which, when levied, shall be paid to the *minister* within two months after his salary becomes due—otherwise *distress* shall go out against the negligent collector to the sheriff or constable of the town to levy what remains unpaid to the minister, out of the estate of the collector; or out of the estate of the *select men* or *town committees*, if it be through their neglect, with a *fine of three pounds* for every such neglect—to be recovered by the state's attorney, and no *appeal* shall be granted."

Moreover by the act for "regulating religious societies," no *new society* can be set up without leave of the general assembly, who are to judge what societies or denominations of men shall have liberty to *procure and have the preaching of the Gospel among them*, on account of their *dissenting* from the way of worship and ministry of the *presbyterian, congregational and associated* churches aforesaid, which are considered as the bodies established—And every person who has made his election to join any society, must continue a member of such society during his continuance within the limits of such society, unless released by act of general assembly, or the vote of such society—which release such society is not required, but only authorised to grant by a legal vote in their meeting, if *they think fit*—And the act concludes with this proviso, still holding up an ESTABLISHMENT of the *presbyterian* and *congregational* societies aforesaid, and calling all others DISSENTERS from them—the words are as follow, viz. "Provided nothing in this act shall affect the privileges allowed by law to any person or persons, who *soberly* DISSENT from the *worship and ministry* ESTABLISHED by the laws of this state."

In Rhode-Island, where the *anabaptists* are a large body, they have taken very great care to obtain *legislative interference* to secure to themselves a share proportionably large in the religion and government of their college. I have not their body of laws at present, to enable me to enter further into their other religious regulations.

In South-Carolina the constitution *interferes* so far in *religious matters* as to require every society, which is to be tolerated and to have the benefit of the religious establishment, to give themselves a name by which they shall be known in law, to consist of fifteen or more male persons, not under twenty-one years of age, professing the *christian* PROTESTANT *religion*, and to subscribe a certain CREED of *five* articles, the last of which is "that it is lawful and the duty of every man, being thereunto called by those that *govern*, to *bear witness to truth*"—

Without examining the constitutions and laws of the other states at present, let the *bill* under consideration, which is so vehemently opposed by certain denominations of men, be only compared with the foregoing regulations and establishments which the same denominations have judged necessary to be made for themselves, whenever they had the power, and let them blush to find themselves to far exceeded in point of liberality. For by the bill in question, there is no distinction, discrimination or exclusion of any christian society, whether *protestant* or *catholic*, and the assessment of those who will not make their election of any ministry, or have none whom they chuse to join, is not to be given to those who call themselves the majority, or consider themselves as the *established* and *favoured* society, but to be proportionably shared by *all*. Moreover, as the bill is yet under consideration, *instructions* are desired and a request made, that if any society or denomination [illegible] shall think themselves particularly

* Here the word parish is used, although the same word gives great offence in certain of their brethren here.

† They exclude Roman catholics.

aggrieved by any part of the bill, and will represent the same to their delegates, it will be altered and amended in such manner as to place every society upon the most *perfect equality* possible, according to the constitution and bill of rights, without any "preference or discrimination."—

LONDON, *October* 19.

THE king sent a message last week to his grace the duke of Portland, commanding his attendance at Windsor. What was the object of this conference, has not yet transpired, but it is supposed to have related to the present situation of affairs in Ireland.

The ruin of Amsterdam is inevitable, if the emperor succeeds in his pretensions, as the revival of affairs at Antwerp will change the current of trade, and direct it into a new channel.

Oct. 21. Dr. Priestly has communicated an experiment, by which he has discovered an inflammable air that can be prepared for one twentieth of the expence attending the preparation at present in use.

PHILADELPHIA, *January* 1.

On Christmas day there were two hundred and nine vessels lying along the docks and wharfs of this city, viz. ninety-four square rigged, several of which are loaded and prepared for sea, and one hundred and fifteen coasters and river craft, among the latter twenty-four were loaded with fuel.

Upwards of nine hundred vessels have entered at the custom-house in this city, from the first of May last to this day.

The navigation of the Delaware has been impeded for some days past, by the ice, which renders it unsafe for vessels either to come in or go out. Several inward as well as outward bound vessels are now lying at Fort Mifflin, Chester, and Marcus Hook; among which are the ship Enterprise, Derushe, from Hispaniola, the ship Hendrick, Clark, from Bristol; the brig Charleston Packet, Allibone, from Charleston, the brig Devonshire, Burrows, from Savanna, in Georgia, the brig Betsey, Irvine, from Jamaica, and a schooner from Beverly, in New-England.

BALTIMORE, *January* 14.

We were misinformed of the quantity of gunpowder said to have been in the loft of Mr. Isaac Abraham's house, at the time of the explosion, as we now find it was about 45 pounds (and not the quantity mentioned in our last) which was the cause of that misfortune.

ANNAPOLIS, *January* 20.

A late English news-paper mentions, that no advices had been received by which it might be judged whether the differences between the emperor and the Dutch would, at length, end in war; but that it rather appeared, something like a compromise was intended, and would be effected by the mediation of other powers.

The United States in Congress assembled, having recognised Charles Hellstedt, Esq; as consul from his Swedish majesty, to reside at Philadelphia, the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania have publicly declared, that the privileges, pre-eminence, and authority, belonging to such character and quality, are due to him.

*** *No post from the northward since Sunday week last.*

BY virtue of a law passed this present session, for altering the time for holding the courts, notice is hereby given, That Saint Mary's county court will be held on the Monday before the fourth Tuesday in March, and on the Mondays before the first Tuesdays in June and September.

Charles county court, on the Monday before the first Tuesday in April, and on the Mondays before the second Tuesdays in June and September.

Prince-George's county, on the Monday before the second Tuesday in April, and on the Mondays before the fourth Tuesdays in June and September.

Calvert county, on the Monday before the third Tuesday in April, and on the Mondays before the third Tuesdays in June and September. 1

Anne-Arundel county, January 10, 1785.

To be SOLD, on Tuesday the 25th instant, at the plantation of the late Mr. Thomas Watkins, sen. for cash, or credit till the first day of August next,

SUNDRY articles of household furniture. All persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those who have claims against it are desired to bring them in on that day legally attested for settlement.

JOHN ADDISON, executor,
LUCY ADDISON, executrix.

1 X

BUILDING.

Annapolis, January 18, 1785.

EDWARD VIDLER,

HAVING imported a number of able workmen in the building branch, will undertake to erect or repair either public or private buildings; he will survey, measure, or estimate, for those who please to favour him with their orders. He has several marble and Portland stone chimney pieces ready for fixing up on the shortest notice. 1

N. B. A store will be opened on Monday next at his house (late Mr. Joseph Middleton's) near the dock.

LOST,

On Wednesday, January 12, 1785,

By GERARD CROWN,

Near Patuxent river, in Prince-George's county,

A CERTIFICATE, dated September 19, 1782, in favour of Francis Clements, of Montgomery county, for £.69 10 3 specie. The person who has found the same shall receive a reward of twelve dollars on delivering it to the subscriber.

10 1/6 FRANCIS CLEMENTS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that on Tuesday the 8th of February next will be sold, at public vendue, one moiety of the schooner JOLLY TAR, and her tackle, now laying in Annapolis harbour, late the property of James Robinson, jun. deceased, the sale to be held on board the said schooner, at Logan's wharf, at ten o'clock. She will carry thirty two hogsheads of tobacco under her deck. All persons having any claims against the estate of the said James Robinson, jun deceased, are hereby requested to bring them in, that they may be adjusted; and all those indebted are requested to make payment to

JAMES ROBINSON, jun. administrator. 10 7/6

Annapolis, January 18, 1785.

THIS is to inform my debtors, that I am in great want of money, and necessity will oblige me to put the law in force against those who do not make payment before the 10th day of February next. 1

JOSEPH BREWER.

South river, January 18, 1785.

THIS is to forewarn all persons from hunting or shooting on my plantation with dog or gun; as they may depend on being prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law. 1

MORDECAI STEWART.

THERE is at the plantation of Baldwin Lusby, near the Head of South river, a blue Hog, marked with a crop and a slit in the right ear, and a crop in the left. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges. 1 6s 7/6

TAKEN up at the plantation of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq; near Annapolis, a dark brown HEIFER, about three years old, marked with an under cut on each ear, and has a little white on the rump The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges. 1

By the COMMITTEE of CLAIMS, November 17, 1784.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the committee of claims will sit at the assembly room, in the state house, every day during this session, from the hours of 9 till 12 o'clock, to receive and allow all just claims that may be exhibited against the public.

By order,

9 X A. GOLDER, clk.

By the COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES and COURTS of JUSTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the committee of grievances and courts of justice will sit every day during the present session, from 12 until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

By order,

9 X R. B. LATIMER, clk.

January 11, 1785.

To be SOLD by PUBLIC SALE, at the Head of South river, on Monday the 24th instant, if fair, if not the next fair day following,

THE stock, household and kitchen furniture, of Mr. Cornelius Barry, deceased. 2 X

Intendant's office, January 10, 1785.

IN consequence of a resolution of the general assembly, passed the 6th instant, I hereby give notice to such persons, who are possessed of bills of credit of May session 1781, commonly called red money, or of certificates for the said money lent the state, that the treasurer of the western shore will redeem the same with gold and silver, provided such bills be carried into the treasury before the 25th day of June next, after which time the said bills will not be redeemed; and in order to save trouble and expence to the holders of such bills or certificates, that the collectors of the several counties within this state, have directions to receive the same as gold and silver for all taxes and arrears of taxes, imposed by any law or laws of this state, provided the same be done by the first day of June next.

DANIEL of ST. THOMAS JENIFER,
intendant of the revenue.

[Mr. Goddard, and the printers at Philadelphia, are requested to insert the above in their respective gazettes for four weeks] 2

CAME to the plantation of John Mercer, living on the Head of South river, some time last spring, a large red and white steer, with a crop in the right ear, an under and over bit in the left, and a nick in the left horn. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges. 2

A LIST of LETTERS remaining in the Post-Office, Annapolis, which, if not taken up before the fifth day of April next, will be sent to the General Post-Office as dead letters.

DR. ADERTON, Port-Tobacco; George Askwith, St. Mary's county; John M'Keel Anderson, Dorset county; Peregrine Afque, Annapolis.

Edmund Brice (3), Miss Brice, James Brice, Sarah Ball, Dr. Horatio Belt, Annapolis; Thomas Blanchard (2), Port-Tobacco; Martha Brown, Queen-Anne's county; Andrew Baillie, Nanjemoy; captain James Bearey, Choptank river; John Brown, Vienna.

Robert Cruikshank, Robert Currey, Benjamin Chambers, Chester-town; general Cadwalader, Charles Carroll, Esq; Robert Clark, Richard Clark, John H. Clayton, Annapolis; Andrew Gravenreat Colesbery, Chaptico; John Cragg, London-town; Pearson Chapman, Pamunkey; Richard Bennett Carmichael, Wye river; Samuel Crabtree, St. Michael's river.

John Davidson (2), Mary Dulany, Annapolis.

Benjamin Earle, John Earle, Queen-Anne's county.

Margaret Finlason, Francis Fairbrother, Annapolis; William Fitzhugh (2), Mount Washington; Philip Feddeman, Queen-Anne's county; Ignatius Fenwick, Maryland; Mr. Ferrin, Hunting-creek.

Thomas Graham, Charles Gasoway, Annapolis; Samuel Gault, Port-Tobacco; William Greenwood, Queen-Anne's county; rev. George Goldie, Wicomies river; James Gordon, Vienna.

Mrs. Hesselius (3), Mr. Herrin, Hugh Harkin, George Harrison, Charlotte Hesselius, Elisha Hopkins (2), Annapolis; Thomas Hunter, Oxford; William Hambleton, Talbot county; Ignatius Heydan, Leonard-town; Robert Harrison, Cambridge; Nicholas Hammond, Dorchester county; Thomas B. Hands, Chester-town; James Hollyday, Sarah Hall, Edward Hall, jun. Queen-Anne's county; William Hopkirk, Prince-George's county.

Johnston and Hall (2), John N. Jordan, Robert Isabell, Annapolis; Daniel Jenifer, jun. Port-Tobacco; Mrs. Johns, Frederick-town.

David Kerr, Annapolis; Emanuel Kent, Queen-Anne's county; William Kirkpatrick, Charles county.

Monf. Larcche, Annapolis; Edward Legg, Prince-George's county; James Lyon, Lower Marlborough; Charles Llewellin, St. Mary's county; Robert Leiper, Maryland.

Thomas D. Merrick (2), Richard Moale, Legh Master, Annapolis; William M'Gill, Joseph Messenger, Mr. Merimon, St. Mary's county; James M'Clain, George Mann, Kent county; John Montgomerie, John Mather, Talbot county; Joseph Maynard, West river.

Charles Porter, Edmund Plowden, William Prew, Annapolis; Henry Pile (2), Charles county; Edward Parkinson, eastern shore; Charles Price, Queen-Anne's county; John Portt, Great Choptank.

James Ratcliff, Port-Tobacco.

General Smallwood, John Stone, Thomas Sandyford, Charles county; James Shaw, James Steele, Dorchester county; Sheddon and Sellers, John Singleton, Talbot county; William and Nicholas Stubey, Chester-town; Dr. Steuart (2), Mr. Sibell, Annapolis; Stephen Steward (3), West river.

Brian Taylor, Leonard's-creek; Richard Tue, Herring-bay; Joseph Thompson, Charles county; David Taite (2), Fort Cumberland; Robert Tuite, Queen-Anne's county; Philip Thomas (2), West river.

William Willatt, Prince-George's county; Singleton Wootton, Queen-Anne; Jesse Wharton, St. Mary's county; Burton Whetcroft, Margaret White, Annapolis; Mr. Worsley, Port-Tobacco; captain Planner Williams, Somerset county; William Wakely, Robert Watts, Patuxent; John Weems, Calvert county; Alexander White, Benedict; Richard Willson, Queen-Anne's county; Conrad Wederstrandt.

2 F. GREEN, D. P. M.

Prince-George's county, December 27, 1784.

To be SOLD to the highest bidder, on Tuesday the 15th day of February next, if fair, if not the next fair day, at the house of Samuel Dove,

ABOUT four hundred and fifty acres of land, lying in the county aforesaid, about four miles from Alexandria; the said land hath plenty of timber, excellent water, and good improvements, with a good apple orchard, and other kinds of fruit. The premises may be seen any time before the day of sale by applying to the subscriber. Extensive credit will be given for the greatest part of the purchase money on giving bond on interest with approved security, to

5 HENRY HUMFREY.

LOTS
IN THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS
To be SOLD on CREDIT.

Dec. 30, 1784. 3 X T. Stone.

Baltimore November 3, 1784.

To be RENTED,

A VALUABLE plantation, five miles from Annapolis, situated on navigable water, on which is a very convenient dwelling house, with out-houses, suitable for a farmer or planter; on this place there are also, an apple and peach orchard, sundry good springs very convenient; the land good, and will produce good crops of small grain or tobacco. For terms apply to the subscriber, in Calvert-street Baltimore.

5 RICHARD BURLAND.

Annapolis, December 22, 1784.

JUST IMPORTED,

In the ship Willing Tom, and to be sold by the subscriber, at his store on the Dock, by wholesale or retail,

AN assortment of goods suitable to the season, on low terms, for cash, bills of exchange, tobacco, wheat, corn, flax-seed, pork, any kind of state money, or liquidated certificates at their passing value. He has a good assortment of wet goods, and intends keeping a quantity by him, for wholesale or retail, viz. old cane spirits, West-India and New-England rum, wine of different qualities, French brandy, Holland's gin, loaf, muscovado, and Havanna sugars, tea, coffee, chocolate, pepper, fig blue, snuff, &c. &c. He has now a few pipes of old Madeira and sherry wine.

5 JAMES WILLIAMS.

N. B. Also for sale, two young negro women and two children, one a good house wench, about twenty years of age, has two children, one three the other one year old; the other wench about fifteen years old, stout and strong, fit for any kind of labour; with a good plantation horse-cart, for cash, &c. as above.

Just imported, and to be SOLD at the Post-office, 16

A FEW elegant SPRING CLOCKS, in mahogany, black ornamental, and japan'd cases.

St Mary's county, November 4, 1784.

COMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a negro by the name of BOB, who says he belongs to one Frederick Hearn, of the state of Virginia, and lives in Norfolk; had on a pair of striped check trousers, a small round hat, coarse linen shirt, and an old spotted coat; he is about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high. The owner is desired to pay charges and take him away. 8 w

6 SAMUEL ABELL, sheriff.

To the gentlemen late officers in the Maryland line of the army.

THE assistant commissioner appointed to liquidate the accounts of the Maryland line of the army, after every attempt to collect the papers necessary to enable him to effect the business, finds the muster-rolls for the year 1781 missing. His not having the pleasure of their personal acquaintance, and being ignorant of their places of residence, compels him to this method of soliciting all officers late commanders of regiments, companies, and others who have the muster rolls (or roll) of the Maryland troops for that year in possession (or have any knowledge where they are or were deposited) that they would be kind enough to transmit them to him at the city of Annapolis by the earliest opportunity, or be pleased to communicate such information on the subject as may appear necessary.

tf 17 J. WHITE, assist. com.

TO BE SOLD,

A VERY valuable tract of land lying on Aquia run, in Stafford county, in Virginia, not more than one mile from Aquia warehouse, about six miles from Dumfries, and twelve miles from Fredericksburg, containing six thousand acres; it is well watered and abounding with timber, calculated for planting or farming; on this land are several valuable mill seats, one particularly so. The above will be sold in lots of two or five hundred acres, as may best suit the purchasers; if sold by the whole tract three years credit will be given for one half the purchase, if in small lots only one year's credit will be given for one half; the other being paid at the time of conveyance. For further particulars enquire of the subscriber opposite to Lower Marlborough, in Maryland, or colonel Bailey Washington, near to and adjoining the premises, who will shew the land. tf

14 WILLIAM FITZHUGH.

TO BE SOLD,

ABOUT 1300 acres of land, lying near the Head of Severn, about 16 miles from Annapolis, and 17 from Baltimore; the soil is adapted both to farming and planting, and has the advantage of a very large tract of meadow ground, a considerable part of which is cleared and may be improved at a small expence; the land is chiefly wooded, and the lower parts abound with a great variety of lofty timbers, it is well watered, and has a good seat for a mill, and coals for miles from navigation. For terms apply to the subscriber in Annapolis.

12 JAMES STEUART.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

Annapolis, December 29, 1784.

RAN away from the subscriber, some time in the month of September last, a negro woman named LUCY, formerly the property of Benedict Calvert, Esq; of Prince-George's county; is about five feet four inches high, and has lost one eye; her country of apparel is unknown. Whoever secures her so that her master may get her again, shall receive thirty shillings if taken up ten miles from home, if twenty miles fifty shillings, and if out of the state the above reward, including what the law allows, and reasonable charges if brought home, paid by

5 ARCHIBALD GOLDER.

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

December 22, 1784.

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Anne-Arundel county, near Queen-Anne, a negro man slave named SAM, about five feet seven inches high, slim made, has a very flat nose, and when his mouth is shut his under lip looks very large and prominent, has a remarkable scar upon his neck reaching almost from his ear to his collar bone occasioned by an impediment, but on which side I am not certain; had on and took with him various articles of cloathing, among which were a coarse blue cloth coat, white kersey waistcoat, black worsted knit breeches, black leather linen, white metal shoe buckles, striped holland coat, manken waistcoat and breeches, two cambric shirts and trousers, a crocus frock, and a new felt hat, but as he has been absent from my service since the 12th of July last it is probable he may have got other cloaths. I have been informed he has a forged pass and has changed his name from Sam to Jem, and endeavours to pass for a free man. Whoever will take up and secure said negro in any gaol, so that I may get him again, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges if brought home, paid by

5 WILLIAM DAVIS, jun.

November 2, 1784.

FOR SALE,

THAT very valuable plantation, late the property of William Thomas, deceased, containing about 800 acres of land, beautifully situated at the mouth of South river, about three miles from the city of Annapolis, and about 300 acres cleared, the whole of exceeding good quality, producing fine tobacco, corn, wheat, oats, and rye; the improvements are, a very good convenient dwelling house, kitchen, corn house, stables, tobacco houses, &c. a good apple orchard, with a variety of other fruit trees; some meadow in timothy and more may be made at a very trifling expence; there are many advantages attending its situation too tedious to mention, among the number the convenience to market, and for fishing and fowling, as in the season there are a great abundance of fine fish, crabs, oysters, and wild fowl. Likewise to be sold, a number of negroes, some of which are very valuable house servants, also some excellent horses fit for the road or draught. For terms enquire of the subscriber living on the premises.

12 P. W. THOMAS.

Annapolis, January 5, 1785.

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons whatsoever, who are indebted to the late partnership of Thomas C. Williams, and Co. or to the subscribers, by bond, note, or open account, they are requested to settle the same with the subscribers on or before the 25th day of February next ensuing, as no further indulgence will be given. All those that do not comply with this public notice and reasonable request, may depend that suits will commence against them, to compel by law, without respect to persons.

3 JOSEPH and JAMES WILLIAMS.

August 13, 1784.

TO BE SOLD,

A PARCEL of valuable lands lying in Baltimore county, about twenty miles from Baltimore-town, on the road leading from that place to Little York in Pennsylvania, containing upwards of eight hundred acres; it has been let out in small tenements, each tenement improved with a good dwelling house, and convenient out-houses; apple orchard, and variety of other fruit trees; a great quantity of meadow ground fit for the scythe, and much more may be reclaimed with but a little trouble and expence; the soil in general is very good and calculated either for planting or farming; there is a great quantity of timber on the land, and that very good. Tobacco, bills of exchange drawn on London, or specie, will be taken in payment. Credit will be given for part of the money, and a great bargain will be given to the purchaser if he pays it a short time. Any person inclined to view the premises, may be shewn them by applying to Mr. Burmingham near the place, and the terms of sale will be made known by him or the subscriber, near Annapolis. 19 JONATHAN SELLMAN, jun.

Prince-George's county, November 25, 1784.

ALL persons having claims against the estate of captain Judson Coolidge, late of this county, deceased, are desired to bring them in legally proved as they may be settled, and all those indebted unto the same, are earnestly requested to make immediate payment, unto 8 w

SINGLETON WOOTTON, RICHARD BURGESS. } administrators.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by F. and S. GREEN, at the POST-OFFICE, Church-Street.

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